



SHORELINE  
CITY COUNCIL

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January 22, 2003

The Honorable Greg Nickels  
Mayor, City of Seattle  
600 Fifth Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle WA 98104

Attention: Regina LaBelle

RE: Gary Zarker's Reconfirmation

Dear Mayor Nickels:

This is written in support of Gary Zarker's reconfirmation as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. As the Shoreline Mayor and City Council discussed with you last fall, we in Shoreline are pursuing several high-priority projects that are dependent upon support and cooperation with the City of Seattle, and specifically Seattle City Light. Those projects include the Aurora Corridor project, the Interurban Trail, and our North City business district improvements. In the case of Aurora Corridor and North City, the improvements include undergrounding of overhead utilities. As you know, the Interurban Trail will be constructed on Seattle City Light right-of-way. Our experience with Gary Zarker and City Light staff has been very positive. In those instances when our projects became slowed-down or appeared to be a lower priority for City Light staff, I have contacted Gary, and he has been very helpful in reinforcing the priority of these projects even though they are Shoreline projects as opposed to Seattle priorities.

We believe it is in Shoreline's interest to have some continuity of leadership at Seattle City Light in order for us to achieve our highest priority goals. We are concerned that if you make a change in the Superintendent's position that not only would our projects be delayed or set back, but many high priority City of Seattle initiatives would falter as well.

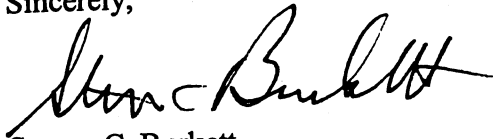
The residents of Shoreline, like all of your ratepayers, are concerned with the recent rate increases. We urge you to make every effort to reduce the rates as soon as possible, while maintaining the fiscal integrity and stability of the utility. I understand Mr. Zarker and his staff have developed a plan to accomplish this goal.

In addition to representing Shoreline's interests in this matter, I have also in the past managed municipal electric utilities in two other cities. I understand the complexity

and the risks involved in operating an electric utility in today's environment. Based on my limited observations, I believe the Superintendent and his staff have effectively planned and managed the operation. I do commend you and the City Council however, for considering changes in the governance structure for the utility. I believe the ratepayers would benefit from an advisory board made up of those who are familiar with the electric utility business. This would help balance the required business decisions and risk management with the broader policy goals of the Mayor and Council.

Thanks again for your attention as Mayor to our projects here in Shoreline. I believe that we are well served by our relationship with Gary Zarker and the City of Seattle's electric utility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Burkett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven C. Burkett  
Shoreline City Manager